



Angélica Infante-Green  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
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255 Westminster Street  
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**Enclosure 4b**  
**July 23, 2019**

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**TO:** Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

**FROM:** Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *a. infante*

**RE:** Commissioner's Request for Delegated Power and Authority to take Actions with Respect to the Providence Public School District

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The Crowley Act, Rhode Island General Law § 16-7.1-5, authorizes the Rhode Island Department of Education ("RIDE") to take control over failing schools and school districts, and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (the "Council") to reconstitute schools within the district. According to the Crowley Act, RIDE shall exercise progressive levels of control "over the school and/or district budget, program, and/or personnel." The Council's reconstitution responsibilities "may range from restructuring the school's governance, budget, program, personnel, and/or may include decisions regarding the continued operation of the school."

Considering, among other things, RIDE's longstanding adoption of progressive support and intervention strategies, RIDE's longstanding support and intervention in the Providence Public School District, the most recent Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy report, and the information obtained from parents, students, educators, and concerned citizens at the recently conducted community forums, I recommend that R.I. Gen. Laws Section 16-7.1-5 be applied to the Providence Public School District to effectuate its purpose and to adequately address the needs of Providence students and families.

Consistent with the authority of the Council to delegate responsibilities to the Commissioner, as it has done in the past, and to most efficiently and effectively carry out the Council's authority here under the Crowley Act, I am recommending that the Council, as principal, delegate to me, as its agent, its power and authority to take actions consistent with, and in furtherance of, RIDE's intervention in and support of the Providence Public School District.

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, pursuant to its powers under R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-60-6 and, specifically, its power to assign the Commissioner certain duties, delegate to the Commissioner the Council's power and authority to take actions consistent with, and in furtherance of, RIDE's intervention in and support of the Providence Public School District, which would include, but not be limited to, assuming control of the District, the reconstitution of the Providence Public Schools and any other power (at law and in equity) available to the Council as may be authorized by law and as may be determined to be necessary and appropriate by the Commissioner.**